

Mr. John Tolley
DOT/PF Planning Director
PO Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

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December 16, 2005

Dear Mr. Tolley:

It is both discouraging and frightening to know that the DOT is planning to remove the provision for a four (4) lane highway between Potter Marsh and Girdwood.

This stretch of road is highly-traveled by Girdwood residents, many on a daily basis, and the trip is often a white-knuckle event, particularly in the winter. A common question between Girdwood residents is "How's the road?" and a common answer is "Really awful."

It isn't always snow that causes the terrible driving conditions. More often, it is wind, coupled with rain and ice. It's not unusual to face glare on the windshield from pouring rain while wrestling with the steering wheel in an attempt to stay on the correct side of the road as a roaring wind shoves vehicles about. Even under summer driving conditions, the tourist traffic causes congestion and patience runs short for some who then endanger everyone as they recklessly pass the RV's who are sauntering along.

This is a dangerous road! The danger will never be completely eliminated as the hazardous weather conditions will remain and the summer tourists will come. However, it can be made safer by providing four (4) lanes which will provide safer passing and a wider road with greater room to maneuver.

Too many Girdwood residents as well as other motorists have lost their lives on this road. For safety's sake, please reinstate the plan to make this a four (4) lane road.

Yours truly,

Gwen Burson

Gwen Burson
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Girdwood, AK 99587

Cc: Jeff Otteson
DOT/PF Deputy Commissioner